

are listed under their vernacular names (pp. 204-219). Many of the definitions in these lists contain much of interest to the ethno-botanist and mention is made here of the publication because only 200 copies were printed and very few, if any, found their way into botanical libraries.

N. T.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MAY 8, 1911

The meeting of May 8, 1911, was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P. M., President Rusby presiding. Forty-five persons were present.

The minutes of the meeting of April 26 were read and approved. Dr. E. B. Southwick, chairman of the Field Committee, reported that the program of the field excursions had been completed and that the first two excursions in April had been attended by twelve persons, collecting 23 species of plants, 5 of which were violets.

Dr. N. L. Britton spoke of the advisability of changing the time of the regular Tuesday meeting to some other evening in order to avoid conflicting with other meetings held at the Museum on Tuesday evening.

The scientific program consisted of a lecture on "Violets" by Professor Ezra Brainerd. Numerous lantern slides were shown to illustrate the principles of Mendel's Law, and the crossing of species of violets, with the resulting hybrids. This lecture will be published in the Bulletin of the Club.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

MAY 31, 1911

The meeting of May 31, 1911, was held at the museum building of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 P. M. Vice President Barnhart presided. Ten persons were present.

The minutes of the meeting of May 8 were read and their approval deferred until the next meeting on request of the

secretary. The names of the following persons who had qualified as sustaining members of the Club were then read by the secretary: Dr. J. H. Barnhart, Hon. Addison Brown, James B. Ford, John Kane and Gustave Ramsperger. Miss Caroline C. Haynes and Mr. H. A. Cassebeer, Jr., have accepted the invitation to become sustaining members.

On motion of Dr. Britton the secretary was instructed to ascertain what action was taken by the Club in fixing the day of the Wednesday meeting and to report at the next meeting the method by which the day of a regular meeting may be changed.

The scientific program consisted of a paper on "Rubber-producing Plants" by Mr. B. T. Butler. The following abstract was furnished by the speaker:

"The rubber-producing plants of the world are confined largely to the following families: Euphorbiaceae, Apocynaceae, and Moraceae. The Asclepiadaceae, although very milky plants, has few species that yield caoutchouc. The Compositae has one genus, *Parthenium*, that yields the Guayule rubber of Mexico.

"The Euphorbiaceae is the most important family from a commercial standpoint as it includes the genus *Hevea* which produces the highest grade rubber—Para. *Hevea brasiliensis* Muell. is the best known of this genus. Pure Para rubber brings the highest market price. This species is largely cultivated in all tropical countries, supplanting the well-known *Ficus elastica* in the Far East.

"The genus *Sapium* is a near relative of the *Hevea* and produces the White Rubber of the northern South American countries. *Sapium aucuparium* Jacq. does not "bleed" freely and the caoutchouc dries or coagulates naturally beneath the bark. This can be extracted by mechanical means.

"The family Moraceae includes the Ramboug, *Ficus elastica* Roxb., which produces a low grade rubber. The *Castilla* of Central America and Mexico, which yields a fine product is much cultivated.

"The Apocynaceae contains the lianes or tropical climbers.

The Rubber Tree of South Africa, *Funtumia elastica* Stapf., is the best known rubber tree of this family. *Alstonia scholaris* R. Br. of South Asia, *Dyera castulata* Hook. of the same region, *Dyera Lowii* Hook. of Borneo (the latter two producing the resinous product called Jelutong), *Mascarenhasia* sp. of Madagascar, and several species of *Plumiera* from Mexico are also trees that produce more or less rubber.

"Another family of scientific interest is the Celastraceae. Many members of this family possess special caoutchouc cells in the stems, leaves, and fruit. These plants do not "bleed" on cutting, but the threads of caoutchouc are found scattered throughout the plant tissues of recent growths and may be separated by mechanical means.

"Several tropical genera of Loranthaceae furnish rubber known as Mistletoe Rubber. They are of no commercial importance."

Dr. Marshall A. Howe exhibited a very beautiful and instructive series of dried specimens of marine algae from Monterey Bay, California, owned by Mr. H. B. Snyder of New York City. Comments upon the rare forms were made and some comparisons were instituted between these luxuriant well-prepared specimens and those that commonly find their way into herbaria.

Dr. W. A. Murrill then exhibited a recently collected specimen of *Arcturus borealis*.

Meeting adjourned to October 10, 1911.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS*

GENERAL SCIENCE COURSES

Among other views on general biology W. L. Eikenberry's article (*School Science and Mathematics*, September, 1910) mentions two facts that are not always recognized in framing such general courses. The first is related to the three part courses now popular as a first year course.

"The present tendency toward the use of 'immediately useful' or economic materials has stimulated the attempt to organize

* Conducted by Miss Jean Broadhurst, Teachers College, Columbia University.